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Gender in UNDP

Follow-up to the report of the Administrator on the organizational assessment of UNIFEM*

1. While awaiting the decisions of the inter-governmental process, UNDP welcomes the recommendations of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel report on revising and strengthening the new gender architecture of the United Nations. In the context of the ongoing reform, UNDP continues to support the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in fulfilling its mandate and will clarify and strengthen its collaboration with UNIFEM at the regional and country levels.

2. The Administrator's annual progress report on the implementation of the gender action plan (DP/2007/9), provides an outline of the various steps that have been taken to clarify roles and strengthen collaboration between UNDP and UNIFEM. The Administrator remains personally committed to strengthening the UNDP-UNIFEM partnership within the context of an effective, coordinated United Nations system support to national governments towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

3. A UNIFEM-chaired task force on gender equality in the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) has been functioning for the past 18 months. It has secured the endorsement of the heads of UNDG organizations to proceed with the development and pilot testing of a United Nations system-wide 'gender scorecard' to measure the performance of selected United Nations country teams on gender equality. Lessons learned and good practices will generate effective models of joint programming.

4. A memorandum of understanding to guide joint programming will be concluded in areas where UNIFEM has comparative advantages. This will be followed by a planning exercise that will highlight concrete deliverables by UNDP and UNIFEM for the 2008-2011 strategic plan. It will be necessary to identify or mobilize resources for the implementation of these initiatives.

* The compilation of data required to provide the Executive Board with the most current information has delayed submission of the present report.

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5. With respect to UNIFEM participation in high-level meetings, UNDP has extended an invitation to UNIFEM to join its delegation to the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS). Moreover, taking into account the critical need to scale up action to address the gender dimensions of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, UNDP and UNIFEM have agreed to strengthen and accelerate partnerships and joint programming in gender and HIV/AIDS. The combined work of UNDP and UNIFEM will contribute to the development of UNAIDS gender policies and programmes. UNDP will facilitate UNIFEM participation as part of the UNDP delegation in other high-level meetings relevant to the mandate and expertise of UNIFEM.